

LONESTAR NEWS

SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 2BDE



October 2005



Words from Lone Star 6

Hello Lonestars,

I hope all of you enjoyed block leave the battalion took last month. It was a much needed and well deserved break for all. While on leave the operational tempo, "OPTEMPO", didn't slow at all. While we were gone the battalion received 17 of the new up-armored HMMWVs, called M1114s. These vehicles provide maximum protection for our Soldiers from small arms fire and IEDs, which remain the biggest threat. In Iraq Soldiers will only ride in these and other types of up-armored vehicles to provide the necessary force protection while performing our missions. These vehicles require a three person crew to operate and are used as a weapon system. The battalion ran the first STB Gunnery and certified all 19 crews. The top performing crew came from Alpha Company, led by SGT Shepard, the vehicle commander, SPC Daniels, the gunner, and PFC Armstrong as the driver. Every company did well and had a crew finish in the top four. Well Done to the crews and great job to the HHC who ran the range. We had planned to run convoy live fires for the battalion but due to Hurricane Rita, which forced the entire post to cancel operations, Bravo Bulldogs were the only company to run through the training. The Soldiers should get another opportunity in Kuwait to hone some of these combat skills. Our Soldiers will qualify on their weapons once again before we deploy. Once in Kuwait we'll fire weapons again and run through other training to ensure we are ready to start our year long mission in Iraq.

Other exciting training going on is the fielding of the Army's newest communication system with our Bravo Company. We fielded and are currently training on the Joint Network Node (JNN). This satellite based system will allow better and more reliable communications for the entire 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Bulldog's Soldiers have been in school for over 2 months getting ready to use this complex, yet extremely reliable system.

Lonestar Happenings

Promotions:

SFC Cross (A Co)
SPC Esponde (A Co)
SPC Clark (A Co)
SPC Saliba (A Co)
SPC Wayne (A Co)
SGT Valdez (B Co)
SGT Holland (B Co)
SGT London (B Co)
SGT Brown (B Co)
SGT Giselbach (B Co)
SPC Pierce (HHC)
SPC Ortiz (HHC)
SGT Knapp (HHC)
SGT Pauley (HHC)

Births:

1LT Gardner (HHC)



"STB Found in Nature"

Painted rock at NTC, courtesy of:

SSG Hernandez (HHC)

PV2 Rakes (B Co)

PV2 Schoonover (B Co)

On the forefront of everyone's mind is when we are leaving. The majority of the battalion will fly to Kuwait shortly after Thanksgiving. About 30 Lonestars will leave on the advanced party the middle of November to help download our equipment and get ready to receive the battalion. Once in Kuwait we'll spend about two weeks training and getting our equipment ready and then we'll head North to our new home for the next year.

While the battalion is preparing to load our equipment over the next two weeks, I ask each of you to also begin preparations if you have not already begun to do so. Our rear detachment, lead by CPT Audry Townsell and SSG Blosser will strive hard to maintain a level of normalcy on the home front so our Soldiers can focus on their mission in Iraq. In order to help resolve issues, I need your help by keeping us informed. I ask you to regularly communicate with your Soldier's company and rear detachment and stay engaged with the family readiness group (FRG). Please keep them current on all changes in your contact information, which includes telephone number, email address and physical location. These, as the Division Rear Detachment commander calls them, are the three pillars of open communication. These three pillars enable us to know when you need assistance and allow us to efficiently pass updates from Iraq.

We like to give a special welcome to our new Physician's Assistant MAJ William Ungureit, who joins us from Hawaii. MAJ Ungureit has 29 years of medical experience in the Army ranging from trauma to orthopedics. He is a welcome addition to the Lonestars and will give great care to our Soldiers.

The battalion's deployment briefings are scheduled for the 27th of Oct, the first at 0900 at Palmer theater and the family briefing at 1900 at 4ID Chapel. Baby sitting is available for the evening session. I encourage you all to attend to learn more and ask any questions you have. Details for the briefing include information about the deployment and re-deployment timeline, emergency leave procedures, and many post agencies will attend to answer Soldier and family member's questions.

We hope you'll join us for battalion fall festival picnic for both Soldiers and families on the 22nd of October at the Live Oak Pavilion at BLORA. Come and enjoy a free afternoon of food, games, door prizes and live music. Keep an eye out for more info. If you have question call CPT Townsell 288-7007.

We have many new Soldiers who've joined the battalion since NTC. We welcome them to the Lonestar family and look forward to serving with you. There will be a change in leadership with A Co FRG. Mrs. Cottrel is moving back to her home town during the deployment. We thank her for her tremendous work with the Stalkers. If you would be willing to fill the FRG leader role in A Co, please contact the BN FRG leader, Nina Muraski, CPT Carter, the Company Commander or the Rear Detachment Commander, CPT Townsell. As always I encourage all of you to get and stay involved with your FRGs.

These newsletters are accessible via the 4th Infantry Division website. To access the Battalion webpage with links to Battalion history, the FRG page and information about the Battalion's Crest /Insignia, Mission and contact information, go to www.hood.army.mil, on the right under Major Unit's click on 4th Infantry Division, once you are at the Division webpage, click on Units, then 2nd Brigade and 2nd STB at the bottom. This will allow you access to all of the Battalion's links.

Thanks for all you do and look forward to seeing you on the 22nd at BLORA.

FIRST IN!!



SGT Crawford (HHC) getting ready to evaluate another crew

HHC

Hurricanes

The HHC Hurricanes came back from a too-short two-week block leave in the beginning of September, ready and motivated to get back to the tasks facing them: preparing equipment for rail load and predeployment training essential for getting the job done in Iraq.

Some notable highlights of the past month include extensive training on the company's brand new up-armored HMMWVs, the M1114, as well as a certification range for .50 caliber machinegun firers. Additional training for the Hurricanes included Family Advocacy training, combat lifesaver training, a Kalsu country brief and Bradley Fighting Vehicle training and an M-249 squad automatic weapons range.

HHC said goodbye to CPT Horvath who served in the unit as the company executive officer. CPT Horvath was only here for three months, but contributed immensely to the HHC effort during his stay, and will continue to excel in his new job as a military intelligence officer with an aviation unit. His replacement, 1LT Depreo, formerly of the S-3 Operations staff replaced CPT Horvath and is already excelling at his duties as the HHC executive officer, probably the hardest job in the entire battalion.

The newest Hurricane was born this month as well to Tracy and 1LT Kris Gardner of the MP platoon. Promotions include PFCs Pierce and Ortiz to SPC, SPCs Knapp and Pauley to SGT.

The ramp up the Hurricanes face over the next several weeks will be difficult, but I and the entire chain of command have confidence in these soldiers, the best the battalion has to offer!

HURRICANES!
HURRICANE 6

Alpha Company

Stalkers

The Shadow Stalkers are working feverishly to prepare for our future deployment. Last month we completed the Fort Hood Leader Reaction course, where stalkers demonstrated exceptional problem solving skills, team work and sponge bob-like characteristics in navigating the numerous water and difficult obstacles. First Lieutenant Kasper and Staff Sergeant Cottrell led the battalion in a machine gun range to round out a very busy month of training for all of the soldiers. There were numerous promotions and award recognitions in the company and for some very deserving soldiers.

We had our monthly FRG meeting in which our current FRG leader Mrs. Cottrell announced that she would be returning to her home of record during the upcoming deployment. She has worked hard to support the spouses of Alpha company will be sorely missed. Anyone interested in taking this position or becoming a point of contact should contact her before 1 November or CPT Carter. For now we look forward to completing our training and spending time with our families before we deploy.

SHADOW STALKERS LEAD THE WAY!



SPC Pershing (A Co) waiting for his turn to make the run for crew certification.

- ❖ **Lonestar Newsletters are posted on the 4ID, 2STB website (FRG link)**
- ❖ **View the New Brigade Family Deployment handbook**
- ❖ **Go the 4ID homepage at www.hood.army.mil/4ID/ and follow the links: "UNITS", "2nd Brigade", "2STB", "Family Readiness Group"**

Bravo Company

Bulldogs

The Bulldogs have had a varied and busy month since the end of block leave. We have had a mix of technical and tactical training as we field new equipment and hone our skills in preparation for deployment.

The Bulldogs have just fielded our new voice and data communications equipment, known as the Joint Network Node, and are in the process of validating it. The validation is a two part process. During the first part we installed and operated the backbone communications network along with the smaller command post nodes which are owned and operated by the other battalions in the brigade. We are now in the middle of the second part which is linking the actual brigade and battalion command posts into the network and validating their digital command and control systems. Our company has performed exceptionally well during this validation exercise and is again setting the standard for the other Signal companies in the division.

On tactical side of our job, we received some outstanding training on Combat Patrol operations on the Corps Warrior Skills Trainer, a combat patrol simulator, and out on the range on a Combat Patrol Live Fire Exercise. I think that our Soldiers enjoyed this training and gained a lot of confidence in themselves and their leaders.

I am happy to report the recent promotion of the following Noncommissioned Officers: SGT Valdez and SGT Holland. We will be promoting CPL London and SPC Giselbach to SGT later this week, effective as of 1 OCT 05.

We will continue to operate at a fast pace as we approach our deployment, but I know that our Soldiers are up to the task. I am incredibly proud of the each and every one of them and could not ask for a better group of Americans to serve with.

"THIS IS OUR BACKYARD SIR," BULLDOG 6 OUT!!

Army One Source

Is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free information and referral telephone service available to all soldiers and families.

AOS provides information for every day concerns, deployment and reintegration issues, relocation, financial matters, family support, relationships, education and schooling, health and wellness, and more. Additionally, if there is a need for face-to-face counseling, AOS will provide referrals to professional civilian counselors for assistance.

www.armyonesource.com

1-800-464-8107

A word from Chaplain Hernandez

I was watching the movie *We Were Soldiers* a few days ago. It brought to me some flash backs when I was in Iraq and when I got back from Iraq. And now I am facing Iraq again with some old fellows and new faces.

It will be a hard year, of course, since we will be in a combat zone. But also our families, close friends and significant others will be in their own war.

Everybody has their responsibilities to accomplish.

The important thing is that we stay together as the Lonestar Family and support each other no matter where we will be or what we think about the war.

In the combat zone we will need your strong support, warmth, letters, love and all of this things that you know we will need that will help us, will motive us, and will keep our mind in focus to accomplish the mission. Here in the rear they will need us to keep in touch with them and you who will stay in the rear also keep in touch with each other and be your brothers/sisters keeper.

I do not know your religious traditions, I am just requesting with all the respect that in your own faith you pray for all us, who will leave and for who will stay. It is and will be my prayer that God Father stay with us all, help us here and in Iraq, and that His providence, wisdom, mercy and love be with all us now and forever. Also, that He give us all strength and guidance to protect our lives here and there and that we can soon see the end of this war. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Note the 26 Oct 2005 there will be a Lonestar Prayer Breakfast at 0645 hrs in Theodore Roosevelt Dining Facility.

Guest Speaker: CH (LTC) Preston (Division Chaplain)

Greetings from the Rear Detachment Commander

I am CPT Townsell, the rear detachment commander. It's an honor and privilege that I have been selected for this position in support of the STB Soldiers, Command group and the STB Families.

I've been stationed at Fort Hood for most of my career. I have been deployed to Iraq with 1-44 Air Defense Artillery and 1-10 Cavalry of 4th Infantry Division.

The rear detachment NCOIC is SSG Blosser. SSG Blosser is well versed in personnel actions and financing. He brings great assets to the group here at Fort Hood in support of our unit's deployment.

SSG Blosser and I will take care of Soldiers and equipment deployed and here at Fort Hood. It is our job to keep the lines of communication open and truthful between forward Soldiers and families, to assist families in learning to better manage separation and to ensure FRGs are positive and productive for our STB families. SSG Blosser and I intend on assisting the FRG in creating fun events for families and to deliver inspiring gifts to our deployed Soldiers.

(*Spouses -Please keep me informed of any trips you take away from your current home or phone number changes in case of a situation in which I must contact you).

UPCOMING BATTALION EVENTS

11 Oct – FRG steering committee
(1130, BN HQs)

22 Oct – BN Fall Festival (BLORA)

26 Oct - BN Prayer Breakfast (DFAC)

27 Oct – Pre Deployment briefing

8 Nov – FRG steering committee (BN HQ)

Mid Nov – Deployment window

Lone Star FRG Leaders

COMMAMND GROUP

LTC RICHARD AND NINA MURASKI (BN FRG)
CSM CURTICE

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

CPT and MRS. BOLENDER (FRG)
1SG BROWN

ALPHA COMPANY

CPT CARTER
1SG MENDEZ
MRS. LACNY (FRG)

BRAVO COMPANY

CPT and MRS. EVERINGHAM (FRG POC)
1SG PUGA

REAR DETACHMENT

CPT TOWNSELL
SSG BLOSSER

Battalion Organizational Day

October 22, 2005

1300

BLORA

Live Oak Pavilion

Door prizes

Food & Games

Free



Live music

Feeling the Impact of Army Life?

Having difficulty finding and obtaining help?

Dealing with injuries, physical symptoms, or stress associated with combat?

Having troubles connecting with family and friends?

Unsure of your next step?

Care Managers Can Help!

Call the Behavioral Health Deployment

Help Care Line

535-4497